Coking coal reserves of Jharia Coal-field

1246. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jharia coalfield is the main coal reservoir of coking coal of India;

(b) if so, the short term and long term planning to exploit these reserves of coking coal to meet our growing requirements; and

(c) how much investment has been made after nationalisation for develop ment of coking coal mines in Jharia coalfield?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 8 Coking coal projects having short gestation period with an annual production capacity of 3.12 million tonnes are under various stages of implementation. 6 Short gestation period projects of an annual production capacity of 0.77 million tonnes have been identified for taking up in the IX Plan. As a long term Plan open cast blocks II to IX in Jharia coalfield have been identified for exploitation of coking coal reserves in the Xth Plan period.

(c) After nationalisation of coking coal mines an expenditure of Rs. 1045.85 crores (Till March, 1997) has been made for augumentation of coking coal production in Jharia coalfield.

Allocation of Coal Mining Blocks

1247. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 201 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th March, 1997 and state:

(a) whether "applications" referred to in her reply to my first supplementary, complete in all respect, for allotment of coal mining blocks in the prescribed Form-I under MMRD Act which, *inter alia,* requires experience, technical qualifications, financial position and fulfilment of other conditions duly vetted and certified by the Collector concerned and the State Government were received by her Ministry in all cases of allocation of mining blocks prior to allotment of blocks by her Ministry; and

(b) whether there are cases in which the procedure prescribed under MMRD Act has not been followed for approval of all mining blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The 'applications-referred to in the reply of Minister of State for Coal to the first supplementary raised in the Rajya Sabha in connection with the Starred Question No. 201 on 10th March, 1997 are the applications being received from various private and public sector companies including the State power utilities for coal blocks for the purpose of mining for captive consumption for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production permitted by the Government as the eligible end-uses under Section 3 (3) (a) (iii) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. There is no set form for such applications nor there is any legal requirement for such applications being forwarded by the concerned State Government. After the offer of captive block is made known to the concerned party, the party is required to get the mining plan approved from the Central Government under Section 5 (2) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and thereafter apply in Form-1 prescribed in the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, for grant of coal mining lease to the concerned State Government. The application of the party recommended by the State Government for grant of lease is required to be approved by the Central Government under the proviso to Section 5 (1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development;